

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A proposal for enhancing the retirement age of teachers in centrally funded institutions under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, from 62 years to 65 years is presently under consideration of the Government.

**Fee hike in higher education**

590. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI KAMALAKHTAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to hike fees for higher studies;

(b) if so, the extent to which the fees are expected to be hiked and on which fields;

(c) how far such a hike in fees shall have adverse effect on the education of children of middle class population; and

(d) how far the minority community students shall be deprived of the education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Crisis in higher education**

591. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several recent studies have revealed that India is facing a deepening crisis in higher education with declining standards and a poor governance;